



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
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RAYMOND G. FORTNER, JR.
County Counsel

August 5, 2005

Agenda No. 30-A
07/26/05

TO: SUPERVISOR GLORIA MOLINA, Chair
SUPERVISOR YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE
SUPERVISOR ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
SUPERVISOR DON KNABE
SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

FROM: RAYMOND G. FORTNER, JR.
County Counsel

RE: **Task Force to Address Gang Activity in County Parks
Item No. S-1 of August 9, 2005 Agenda**

At your meeting of July 26, 2005, on motion of Supervisor Burke, your Board directed the County Counsel to convene a Task Force to include representatives of the Sheriff, District Attorney, Public Defender, Office of Public Safety and the Department of Parks and Recreation. This Task Force was instructed to develop recommendations to address the problem of gang members monopolizing County park facilities and intimidating those who approach them. We were instructed to report progress to your Board at its August 9, 2005, meeting, and the matter has been agendized as a set item (S-1) at 11:00 a.m.

The Task Force was convened on August 2, 2005.

At the first meeting, the Office of Public Safety identified each County park that is located within an identified gang area. That Office also briefed the members of the Task Force on its current efforts to reduce gang activity in County parks.

In order to make future recommendations for appropriate allocation of resources, the Task Force asked the Office of Public Safety to review crime reports at those parks and to identify by objective criteria the parks with the highest incidents of gang-related crime. The Task Force also asked the Office of Public Safety to expand an existing pilot program to conduct a survey of residents living near several parks located in gang areas. The survey will seek to determine the degree to which those residents are dissuaded from using their local parks by perceived gang activity.

The Department of Parks and Recreation was asked to inquire of similarly sized jurisdictions to determine what actions, if any, those jurisdictions have taken to address the problem of gang activity in their public parks.

The Task Force also asked that the Probation Department join its ranks. The Chief Probation Officer agreed to do so, and his Department will participate in future Task Force meetings.

The studies to be undertaken by the Office of Public Safety and Department of Parks and Recreation should be completed by the Task Force's next meeting on September 13, 2005. After identifying those parks with the most severe problems or perceived problems, the Task Force will explore potential solutions and report to your Board.

If you have questions concerning this matter, please contact me, Assistant County Counsel Roger H. Granbo at (213) 974-1930, or Principal Deputy County Counsel Gordon W. Trask at (213) 974-1943.

RGF:GWT:jb

c: Leroy D. Baca, Sheriff
 Steve Cooley, District Attorney
 David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
 Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
 Russ Guiney, Interim Director, Department of Parks and Recreation
 Paul Higa, Chief Probation Officer
 Michael Judge, Public Defender
 Margaret A. York, County Police Chief, Department of Public Safety